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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY Bong Kong/Kores/Janu/USSE

SUBJECT Hong Kong Agents for Soviet-Korean Steam Navigation Company (Mortrans)

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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A REPORT NO.

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- 1. The Newland ( ) Steamship Company, Limited, Room 9, 20 Ice House Street, Hong Kong, is an agent for the Soviet-Korean Steam Navigation Company (Mortrans)\*, which has its headquarters at Pyongyang, North Korea. The Chinese firm, which has branches in Shanghai, Canton and Tientsin, also has a lateral company in Hong Kong, the Metropolitan Commercial Company, Limited, \*\* which uses the same office and is staffed by the same personnel. Both use telephone number 31045 and cable addresses NULANCO and METCO.
- 2. The Metropolitan Commercial Company was incorporated in June or July 1948 in Hong Kong at its present address, as a firm of commission agents with a staff of five. The Newland Steamship Company is registered in Panama and came into being in the late spring of 1949 as a result of a trade agreement between the METCO staff and the North Korean government. To satisfy the trade laws of NULANCO.
- 3. NULANCO is the Hong Kong agent for all Soviet commercial shipping in Chinese waters. This includes only four vessels:\*\*\*
  - AIVAZOVSKY (code UKFI), Captain N. Liroshnichenko; departed Dairen 24 May 1950, bound for Hong Kong.\*\*
  - POLTAVA (code UKTH), Captain B. F. Below; under repair in Hong Kong Dock, Kowloon.\*\*
  - ALDAN (code UOYZ), Captain L. Mironenko; departed Hong Kong 20 May 1950 for Wonsan (127-26, 39-10), North Korea.

AZOV, scheduled to leave Hong Kong 29 May 1950 for Dairon.

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Archivist of the United States.

The first three of these vessels were built between 1915 and 1920, and have a speed of only five to seven knots. The AZOV was built about 1942, and has a speed of approximately ten knots. All four vessels are in bad repair.

4. A new ship, the EASTERN VENTURE, was purchased in the name of NULANCO from

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Wallem and Company, Hong Kong shipping agents\*\*\*\*, in late 1949. During May 1950 NULANCO purchased from the same company the SS NORBERG, paying in advance a half margin of HK \$250,000. The remainder was to be paid when NULANCO took possession of the vessel, scheduled for 1 June 1950, when she will be renamed EASTERN PRIDE. The new name was for some unknown reason kept secret until late May. The EASTERN VENTURE, captained by a stateless Russian, A. M. Troyan, was in late May 1950 at Honan-ni (127-37, 39-50), North Korea, loading 3,500 tons of iron ore for transshipment to Japan. The EASTERN PRIDE was still outfitting in Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong.

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Comment. This firm is also known as the Choson Marine Transportation Company.

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Comment. A fifth Soviet commercial vessel, the SS SMOLNY, was expected to stop in Hong Kong in June 1950, after having suspended her visits there for a year. It is not known if NULANCO will be the agent. Additional information on the other four ships is as follows:

AIVAZOVSKY, 3240 tons.

POLTAVA, 1830 tons. In February 1950 the captain was reported as Terenty Fomich.

ALDAN, 2160 tons.

AZOV, 1923 tons (2849 gross). In April 1950 the Hong Kong agents were reported to be the Overseas Trading Company, and the master, L. J. Sergeyev.

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Comment. Wallem and Company appear in the 1950 Hong Kong Trade Index as shipowners, steamship agents and coal contractors, in the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Building. Their vessels, the SS NORBERG (ex-NEW CHINA), 5857 tons, and the SS EASTERN VENTURE (ex-LAKE FRUGALITY), 1355 tons, were put under Panamanian registry in January 1950 and August 1949 respectively.

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